they were distributed. In addition thereto quantities of loose grass collected in the Poona, Násik and Sátára districts in the ranges bordering the Syhádris were sold locally without undergoing baling. The revenue derived for the hirda, myrabolan, during the year of the report and the previous year shows as under :—

Year.	Yield.	Price.
	K. m. lbs.	Rs.
1895-96	1,775 1 25	5,344
1896-97	1,486 24 9⅔	20,396

157. In the Násik Division the hirda fruit was collected departmentally. The year was a bad one, and the crop poor, but notwithstanding the results were fair.

158. Forty khandis of hirdas represented the yield of the Akola Range of the Ahmednagar District and they were sold at the rate of Rs. 35 per deshi khandi.

159. In the Poona Division a balance of 35 Bombay khandis collected departmentally in 1895-96 was sold at Rs. 33 per khandi.

160. In the Sátára Division it was intended to farm out the right to collect hirda throughout the district, but owing to no adequate offers being made for several ranges, the right was only farmed out in the Mahábaleshvar, Pátan and Shirála ranges; whilē in the Jávli, Wái and Sátára ranges the hirda was collected departmentally. Difficulty was experienced in selling this hirda owing to the low prices ruling generally in the city of Bombay.

4,800 cubic feet of bábul bark stripped off the trees felled in the Burli coupe of the Tásgaon Range were sold for Rs. 110.

II.—REMOVAL OF PRODUCE BY PURCHASERS.

(*a*).—Timber.

161. The following table compares the results of the past two years :—

Division.	1895-96.		1896-97.	
	Cubic feet.	Revenue.	Cubic feet.	Revenue.
		Rs.		Rs.
East Khándesh	106,650	2,518	14,146	629
West Khándesh	174,938	12,725	183,531	13,437
Násik	1,590,549	92,070	529,670	52,139
Ahmednagar	12,080	371	.....	265
Poona	25,752	12,801	23,525	4,659
Sátára	2,580	1,456	2,233	1,688
Sholápur	8,400	2,275	.....	2,342
Total ...	1,920,949	1,24,216	753,105	75,159

162. In the East Khándesh Division the outturn under this head has dwindled down very much owing to an almost total absence of demand for wood in the market. The Bhils who subsist ordinarily on bartering and selling wood forsook their ordinary occupation and turned for their livelihood to grass-cutting and carrying it from the Sátpuda forests for sale in villages in the plains to the public, and they also employed themselves as labourers in cutting grass for Government.

163. On some disforested lands in West Khándesh trees were sold on foot to be cleared away by the purchasers at their own expense.

164. In the Násik Division prices ruled very low and two contracts were cancelled and not resold.

165. In the Ahmednagar Division trees in the evergreen forests were sold on fees to villagers in 44 villages along the ghâts in Akola and 6,039 trees were thus exploited.

166. The heavy fall in receipts in the Poona Division is due to the fact that in 1895-96 the whole of the revenue under this head was due to the sale of teak trees on foot at 1 rupee per tree; whereas in 1896-97 only 2,338 royalty trees could be sold on foot at the prescribed rate, and the remaining half of the revenue was due to the price obtained for the sale of teak coupes (standing).

167. In the Sátára Division an attempt was made during the year to introduce the Thána system of selling the coupes on foot, but it proved a failure, with the exception of the Degaon Coupe No. 9, which was sold for Rs. 510 only; and some 939 teak and 358 sandalwood trees standing upon cultivation lands outside of forest boundaries were sold to survey occupants.

168. In the Sholápur Division only two coupes were exploited this year, but prices paid for them were good.

(*b*).—Firewood.

169. A comparison between the two years is given below:—

Division.	Cubic feet.		Revenue.	
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
			Rs.	Rs.
East Khándesh	661,770	385,898	5,515	3,908
West Khándesh	201,341	97,128	7,216	2,205
Násik	266,296	272,142	5,487	5,195
Ahmednagar	39,875	33,509	3,327	2,267
Poona	806,100	351,367	6,046	8,913
Sátára	7,209	9,007	194	217
Sholápur	20,238	12,200	192	682
Total ...	2,002,829	1,161,251	27,977	23,387

170. In the two Khándesh divisions no coupes of standing trees were sold during the year, and all the exploitations were made on permits by villagers for the needs of local supply. A sum of Rs. 18 was received on account of firewood sold on foot from disforested lands in West Khándesh.

171. In the Násik Division a great deal of firewood was disposed in coupes under the working plans.

172. In accordance with the provision of the working plans the bábul forests of the Ahmednagar Division were exploited. Forty-six coupes were put into the market, but only 30 found purchasers, and 16 remained unsold: 186 acres were worked under clear fellings and 10,467 trees, yielding according to rough estimate 31,320 cubic feet, were felled, realizing Rs. 2,350. The prices offered were poor.

173. In the Poona Division the coupe sales were satisfactory, but in the Sátára and Sholápur divisions there were practically no sales.

(*c*).—Bamboos.

174. All bamboos are removed on permits by payment of fees in the Khándesh District.

175. The contract for bamboos in the Peint Range of the Násik District was taken at Rs. 3-8-6 per 100, but only 39,850 were exploited instead of 100,000 as contracted for, the contractors stating that the absence of grass and drinking

water for cattle prevented their working up to the full of their agreements. In the other ranges of Násik, as well as in the other divisions, bamboos were removed on permits.

176. The following table shows the quantities exploited and their values :—

Division.	1895-96.		1896-97.	
	Number.	Revenue.	Number.	Revenue.
		Rs.		Rs.
East Khándesh	745,998	7,802	452,852	4,617
West Khándesh	205,166	1,834	462,234	2,684
Násik	88,822	4,247	69,288	3,062
Ahmednagar	32,567	327	25,912	283
Poona	94,490	971	31,492	344
Sátára	89,651	557	37,751	231
Total ...	1,256,694	15,738	1,079,529	11,221

N.B.—Revenue for 152 cart-loads and 386 head-loads sold in the Násik Division is included in the above figures.

(*d*).—Grazing and Fodder Grass.

177. This has been dealt with earlier in the report.

(*e*).—Other Minor Produce.

178. This head includes hirda (the fruit of the Terminalia chebula), shikakai (the pod of Acacia concinna), rosha oil (Andropogon schœnanthus), tarwad (Cassia auriculata), leaves of temburni (Diospyros), of apta (Bauhinia), karvi (Strobolanthus), thorns, earth, stones, &c. : the comparative results are as follows in rupees :—

Division.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	Rs.	Rs.
East Khándesh ...	1,208	1,207
West Khándesh ...	14,975	12,030
Násik	2,789	2,619
Ahmednagar	1,911	1,988
Poona	998	2,226
Sátára	3,864	3,922
Sholápur	84	490
Total ...	25,829	24,482

III.—FREE GRANTS OF FOREST PRODUCE.

179. The following statement shows the value of such grants sanctioned during the past five years :—

Division.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
East Khándesh	...	...	...	25	...
West Khándesh	458	1,518	671	2,270	1,414
Násik	274	369	510	1,477	...
Ahmednagar	...	20	41	12	78
Poona	628	684	694	392	464
Sátára	136	43	110	25	131
Sholápur	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	1,496	2,634	2,026	4,201	2,087